

SKYFALL
By Lorraine Viade, Psy.D.



The latest James Bond film is everything you want in terms of action, adventure, beautiful settings and women, and death-defying stunts. But this Bond is so much more in terms of understanding the man behind the gun. This is the film that truly passes the Bond franchise to Daniel Craig who inherited the role that suits him so perfectly.

In *Skyfall*, we get a true sense of how Bond evolved into who he is now. In Javier Bardem, our hero meets his true villain match. *Skyfall* is built solidly on relationships past and present, and not on fancy gadgets. Loyalty here is given not only to country, but to keeping the world safe from technological attacks. *Skyfall* is about transition and resurrection. It is about going back so you can move forward. If you take the symbolism at face value, you could say that Bond has risen and, in that act, has freed himself from the emotional bonds of his past. More literally, for the character and the franchise, this is the end of one era and the beginning of another.

To talk of plot would spoil all the fun. Just go and get to know our James more intimately. It does not get better than this for spy versus spy excitement. If you have seen all the other renditions of Bond, from Connery to Brosnan, you will appreciate *Skyfall* even more for how the many faces of Bond are honored with every breathtaking moment. Daniel Craig is clearly the most athletic of the Bond actors. He infuses the role with a dark yet vulnerable masculinity that is rugged and reserved at the same time. I look forward to many more adventures with this Bond. The music and title song by Adele are great. You do not notice that the movie is almost two and a half hours long; it goes by so quickly.

The supporting cast is pure magic and casting should get some sort of special recognition for this one. Judi Dench is always amazing, and the addition of Ralph Fiennes is a real treat. So go and bond with Bond. I saw it in IMAX and was happy to pay the \$18.00 ticket price. He is surely worth it.

I give *Skyfall* five couches.

